

Topics to be addressed by the Conservation Easement Stewardship Guidance Team:

- Improving the process to create and develop conservation easement language,
- Involving resource specialists tasked with perpetual stewardship,
- Involving agency personnel tasked with enforcing easement terms and conditions,
- Involving the Office of the Solicitor earlier in the process,
- Involving the BLM's most senior real estate experts,
- Considering long term management goals,
- Considering costs associated with perpetual stewardship,
- Exploring external and internal sources of stewardship funds,
- Alternative sources of funding,
- Partnering with third parties/nonprofits to establish baseline documentation, monitoring, and perpetual stewardship,
- Maintaining baseline data (storage of duplicate copies, stability of material),
- Annual on-the-ground inspection/review with owner,
- Resale of conservation easement protected properties,
- Contact with realtor to insure listing accurately reflects easement restrictions,
- Establishing contact with new owner,
- Amending conservation easements (legal and IRS impact). Consider opportunities to re-negotiate old conservation easements with vague language or terms and conditions into new conservation easements with clear language,
- Defending conservation easement in court (process, who to contact),
- Explore alternatives to court litigation over easement violations; including ways to incorporate petty offense regulations into the easement language (so that violations can be handled via citation under CFRs rather than our current difficulty needing to take civil action (attorney time) for violations,
- Interpreting vague and ambiguous easement language,
- Environmental and conservation easement outreach and education,
- Volunteer services.